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*BOROUGH OF BANBURY*

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

and

## Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year

## 1954

## BOROUGH OF BANBURY.

*Mayor -*

**ALDERMAN MRS C. C. CHILTON, J.P.**

*Deputy Mayor -*

**ALDERMAN G.D.M.BRAGGINS C.C.**

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**Public Health Committee**

*Chairman* - COUNCILLOR L.C. WALKLETT.
*Vice Chairman* - COUNCILLOR L.G.F.HYDE.

ALDERMAN HASKINS
ALDERMAN JONES
COUNCILLOR CRINGAN
COUNCILLOR DAWSON
COUNCILLOR FOUNTAIN
COUNCILLOR GEEAR
COUNCILLOR JELFS
COUNCILLOR PORTERGILL
COUNCILLOR PRICE
COUNCILLOR TRINDER

*Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace* - E. OWEN REID, Solicitor.

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health:*

A.J.CAMPBELL., B.Sc (Oxon), M.D. (St. And.), D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector:*

F.APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.), F.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.H. (Hons.)

*Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector:*

G.WALSHAW, A.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. (to July, 1954)
C.R.PALING, M.S.I.A., (from 1st August, 1954)

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors:*

D.R.COTGROVE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (to September, 1954)
M.A.BELTON, M.S.I.A.
D.H.HIBBERT, M.S.I.A. (from 1st October, 1954)

*Clerk:*

MISS R. HARRIS (Shorthand Typist).

*Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders:*

G.STEVENS (from January, 1955)

*Rodent Officer and Disenfection Officer:*

J.O.HUMPHRIS.

*Manager of Public Slaughterhouse:*

T.W.PARGETER (from 1st August, 1954)

**To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Banbury**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,-

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough during 1954. The report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 38/54 of the Ministry of Health.

**Vital Statistics.**

The Vital Statistics for the Borough for 1954 appear to be satisfactory and compare favourably with those of England and Wales.

The Birth Rate in the Borough in 1954 was 15.84 compared with 15.94 in 1953 and 15.2 in England and Wales.

The Death Rate in 1954 was 10.35 as compared with 10.84 in 1953 and 11.3 for England and Wales.

202 deaths occurred in 1954 compared with 205 in 1953.

The common causes of death in order of frequency were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Heart Disease ... ... ... ... ... | 45 |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... ... ... | 43 |
| Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System ... | 34 |
| Circulatory Disease ... ... ... ... | 17 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ... ... | 3 |

As far as Cancer is concerned the commonest site was the lung. The number of cases increased to 10 in 1954, compared with 6 in 1953. The Death Rate in 1954 in Banbury from this disease was therefore .523 compared with .369 for England and Wales. It seems probable, however that this relatively high incidence in Banbury is of a temporary character as the figures for the past four years suggest - 1951 - 9 cases; 1952 - 3 cases; 1953 - 6 cases; 1954 - 10 cases. During the year 1954 there were 3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The Infant Mortality figure in 1954 was 26.4 as compared with 27.21 in 1953 and 25.5 for England and Wales.

**Housing.**

One of the major public health problems in the Borough is still the question of housing. As pointed out elsewhere in the report, the housing survey required by Circular 55/54 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has recently been completed and is at present under consideration by the Council. It is hoped that the Ministry will allow of a very much larger housing allocation than has been possible in the past in order to enable the proposed slum clearance programme to be carried out in the required time.

Since 1946, 26 houses have been demolished and 24 closed either as a result of informal action or procedure under the Housing Act, 1936.

As mentioned in previous reports overcrowding is still a serious problem and there are still unfortunately a large number of cases where there are two or three families living in one small house.

With regard to caravans, the question of the site at the Marshes is still engaging the attention of the Public Health Committee. It is hoped that in the near future it will be properly equipped and licensed. Negotiations for this purpose are in progress.

**Infectious Diseases.**

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases in the Borough has again been low. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever, however, was higher than in 1953 - 34 cases being notified as compared with 24 in 1953. The incidence of Measles was low as an epidemic occurred in 1953; there were 17 cases of Whooping Cough. No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported, although one death occurred from a case notified in 1953. It is also worthy of record that no case of Diphtheria has occurred in Banbury for over 10 years, and due credit for this must be given to the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign.

**Food Hygiene.**

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred in 1954.

Increased attention is now being given to the question of Food Hygiene by the Sanitary Inspectors and special statistics on the subject are now required by the Ministry of Health.

As mentioned in previous reports there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning throughout the country generally since the War, and this has been attributed to the increase in communal feeding in school and factory canteens and the increase in the use of made-up dishes owing to meat rationing. Such dishes are particularly liable to be contaminated with food poisoning organisms.

Although meat rationing has now ended, it seems unlikely that this will lead to a diminution in the number of cases of food poisoning. A considerable number of sporadic cases and carriers of Salmonella infection are discovered by the Public Health Laboratory each year and this suggests that there is a fairly high carrier rate in the population - hence the necessity for increased vigilance and care by all who handle food.

In this connection, I should like to mention the valuable work which is being done by the Sanitary Inspectors. Over 2,000 visits were paid to food premises in 1954, and although no organised course of lectures was given to food handlers during the year, valuable educational work was done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the course of their inspections.

It should be mentioned that during the year the Corporation acquired the Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, formerly under the Ministry of Food, as a Public Abattoir. No licences for private slaughtering are being issued under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

**Staff.**

During the year Mr. G. Walshaw, Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector left the service of the Corporation to take up another appointment and was succeeded by Mr. C. R. Paling. Mr. D. R. Cotgrove, Additional Sanitary Inspector also resigned to take up another appointment and was succeeded by Mr. D. H. Hibbert.

In conclusion I should like to thank all the members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their valuable co-operation during the year, and in particular to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Appleyard, who is responsible for the efficient and successful working of his department.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support of the work of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. CAMPBELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Area** ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5,051 acres |
| **Population** (1951 Census) .. ... ... ... | 18,917 |
| **Population** (1954 Estimated Reg. Gen.) .. ... | 19,130 |
| **Rateable Value** ... ... ... ... ... ... | £129,482 |
| **Product of Penny rate** ... ... ... ... ... | £700 |

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1954.

**Live Births.**

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... | 141 | 140 | 281 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | 6 | 16 | 22 |
| Totals ... | 147 | 156 | 303 |

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population ... 15.84
(England and Wales - 15.2)

**Stillbirths.**

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | - | - | - |
| Totals ... | 6 | 2 | 8 |

RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) ... ... 26.4
(England and Wales 25 per 1,000)

**Deaths.**

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | 101 | 101 | 202 |

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population ... 10.35
(England and Wales 11.3)

**Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.**

| | Number. | Rate. |
|---|---|---|
| All Infants per 1,000 live Births | 8 | 26.40 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ... ... ... | 8 | 28.47 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ... ... ... | - | - |

(England and Wales 25.5)

**Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Causes: | Legitimate: | Prematurity | 4 |
| | | Haemorrhagic Diathesis | 1 |
| | | Atalectasis | 1 |
| | | Broncho-Pneumonia | 1 |
| | | Capillary Bronchitis | 1 |
| | Illegitimate: | | Nil. |

**Causes of Death, 1954.**

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Tuberculosis, other ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ... ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasms (stomach) ... ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasms (lung: bronchus) | 10 | - | 10 |
| Malignant neoplasms (breast) ... ... | - | 6 | 6 |
| Malignant neoplasms (uterus) ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 11 | 13 | 24 |
| Leukaemia and aleukaemia... ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 16 | 18 | 34 |
| Coronary disease, angina... ... ... | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Hypertension with heart disease ... | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Other heart disease ... ... ... | 7 | 16 | 23 |
| Other circulatory disease ... ... | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 6 | 10 | 16 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 2 | - | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis ... ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital malformations ... ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Motor vehicle accidents ... ... | 5 | - | 5 |
| All other accidents ... ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Suicide ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| | 101 | 101 | 202 |

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... 43
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... None
Measles (all ages) ... ... None

**Classification of Cancer Deaths.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Breast ... ... ... | 6 | Stomach ... ... ... | 2 |
| Uterus ... ... ... | 1 | Other Sites ... ... | 24 |
| Lung ... ... ... | 10 | | |

## *SECTION B*

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

**1. Staff of the Public Health Department.**

A list of members of the Staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this report.

**(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at:-

(a) the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford.

(b) Horton General Hospital, Banbury.

(c) Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street London, S.W.1. (Water Examinations only.)

The following are the details of the work carried out in 1954 at the Oxford Laboratory:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SWABS | Number Examined | 238 |
| | Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci | 70 |
| | Positive for Vincent's Angina | Nil |
| | Negative | 168 |
| FAECES | Number examined | 14 |
| | Positive for Shigella Sonnei | 6 |
| OTHER EXAMINATIONS | | 2 |

**(b) Nursing in the Home.**

Facilities are provided by the County Council under Section 25, National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation.

**(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

| CLINIC | PLACE | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic | School Clinic Warwick Road | Tuesday and Friday, 2.30 p.m. |
| 2. Ante-Natal Clinic | Neithrop Hospital Warwick Road | Wednesday morning by appointment |
| 3. School Clinic | School Clinic | Each weekday 9 a.m. also Tuesday 2 p.m. |
| 4. Child Guidance Clinic | " " | Thursday 10.30 a.m. |
| 5. Speech Clinic | " " | Wednesday 10 a.m. |
| 6. Eye Clinic | Horton Hospital | Monday 10 a.m. |
| 7. Orthopaedic Clinic | " " | Thursdays (1st & 3rd) 2.30 p.m. |
| 8. Tuberculosis Clinic | " " | Thursday 1 p.m. |
| 9. V.D.Clinic | Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. | Males - Wed. 6 p.m. Sat. 3 p.m. Females - Mon. 6 p.m. Wed. 3 p.m. |
| 10. Diphtheria Immunisation. | School Clinic Warwick Road. | Every Tuesday 3 p.m. |
| 11. Whooping Cough Immunisation. | " " | Every Tuesday 3 p.m. |

**Puerperal Pyrexia** - 11 cases occurred during the year.

**Maternal Deaths** - There were no maternal deaths during the year.

**Illegitimate Children.**

There were 22 illegitimate births during the year. Of these none died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 0.0 per 1,000 as against 28.47 for legitimate children.

**National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47**

No action has been necessary in the Borough during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**1. Water Supply.**

Water for the Borough was, up to the end of 1946, supplied by the Banbury Water Company but, during that year, a Bill was passed by Parliament under which the Town Council acquired the undertaking as from the 1st January, 1947. (Banbury Corporation Act, 1946).

The water supply is from the River Cherwell at Grimsbury and the Sor Brook at Bodicote; it is treated by settlement filtration and chlorination. During 1954 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year 65 samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory and suitable for a public supply.

With the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the town (21 separate premises), all are on the public supply.

**2. Drainage and Sewerage.**

No important works were carried out during the year, except the extension of sewers in connection with the Corporation's housing programme. Drainage repairs and improvements carried out under the supervision of the Department during 1954 included:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Drains cleared of obstruction ... ... ... | 14 |
| Drains repaired or relaid ... ... ... | 35 |
| Soilpipes repaired ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Inspection chambers provided ... ... ... | 2 |

**3. Rivers and Streams.**

The Thames Conservancy Board exercises general supervision over the rivers and streams in the Borough. The water-courses conveying storm water received attention from the Sanitary Inspector during the year and some cleansing of water-courses was carried out.

**4. Closet Accommodation.**

Practically all the dwelling-houses in the Borough are provided with water closets, except a few on the extreme outskirts of the town where the water carriage system is not available. Improvements to closet accommodation carried out as a result of the work of the Sanitary Inspector were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| New water closet provided ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| W.C. compartments repaired ... ... ... ... | 75 |
| W.C. compartments cleansed ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| W.C. pedestals provided ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| W.C. cisterns provided ... ... ... ... | 15 |

**5. Public Cleansing.**

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor and has been well maintained during the year.

**6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Particulars of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector at the end of this report.

## *SECTION D*

### HOUSING.

As has been stressed in many previous annual reports, the position in respect of housing conditions in the Borough still remains far from satisfactory and the problem of dealing with unfit houses generally is one of some magnitude.

Following the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a survey of the Borough in this connection has been carried out and, at the time of preparing this report, a detailed report on proposals for dealing with a five year programme of slum clearance work was under consideration by the Corporation prior to being sent to the Ministry in accordance with the requirements of Circular 55/54 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The suggested programme, if carried out, will necessitate dealing with a large number of houses during the next five years and it would seem that, unless a very much larger number of houses are made available for re-housing the occupiers of such unfit houses, it will not be possible to carry out the programme in the period hoped for.

As in previous years, a good deal of housing repair work was again carried out during 1954 -246 houses being repaired following action under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and 107 houses being dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. In addition to this work, five houses were closed or demolished as a result of informal action during the year.

It is interesting to note that since 1946, the following work has been carried out in the Borough under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936:-

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Houses demolished by formal or informal action | 26 |
| (2) Houses permanently closed following formal or informal action | 24 |
| (3) Houses repaired under Section 9 | 489 |
| (4) Houses at which work was carried out in default of owners | 30 |

## *SECTION E*

### INSPECTION OF MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

**(a) Milk Supply**

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Corporation's duties with respect to milk supply is now mainly concerned with the distribution side, the responsibility for the supervision of milk production now being in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whilst the responsibility for supervising milk pasteurisation plants is dealt with by the County Council.

The work of the Public Health Department in this connection therefore, during 1954, has been mainly in connection with the inspection of dairies and the sampling of milk. 54 visits of inspection were recorded and 75 samples of milk have been taken.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949, the following licences were granted by the Corporation:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk) | 5 |
| Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised Milk) | 2 |

Routine milk sampling was maintained throughout the year and the following statistics show the number and results of the samples taken:-

| *Type of Milk* | *Samples Taken* | *Samples Satisfactory* |
|---|---|---|
| Tuberculin Tested (Past.) | 32 | 31 |
| Pasteurised | 43 | 41 |
| | 75 | 72 |

These results are quite satisfactory and it is interesting to note that 54 samples, taken in Banbury during 1954 by the County Council's Officer, showed similarly satisfactory results.

So far as is known, practically all the milk passing through the town's dairies is now rendered safe by pasteurisation and it is reasonable to conclude that the town's milk supply is at present highly satisfactory.

**(b) Meat Inspection.**

During 1954 as in the seven previous years, every animal slaughtered for human food in the Borough was inspected prior to sale and, in the period under review, the carcases, parts of carcases and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered.-

| | CATTLE | | SHEEP | | PIGS | | CALVES | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected .. | 2143 | | 8464 | | 6889 | | 531 | |
| | No. | Weight. | No. | Weight. | No. | Weight. | No. | Weight. |
| *Carcases Condemned:* | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis | 8 | 4498 | - | - | 6 | 985 | - | - |
| Other Diseases | 9 | 2901 | 35 | 1714 | 15 | 1119 | 23 | 655 |
| Totals (a) | 17 | 7399 | 35 | 1714 | 21 | 2054 | 23 | 655 |
| *Parts of Carcases Organs, Etc.* | | | | | | | | |
| Total Offal | 17 | 924 | 35 | 300 | 21 | 114 | 23 | 149 |
| Livers | 444 | 7277 | 326 | 695 | 189 | 620 | 5 | 10 |
| Lungs | 144 | 1494 | 212 | 647 | 585 | 1557 | 2 | 6 |
| Heads | 102 | 2605 | 5 | 18 | 107 | 1568 | - | - |
| Tongues | 105 | 621 | - | - | 5 | 7 | - | - |
| Spleens | 17 | 33 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Intestines | 14 | 356 | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | - |
| Kidneys | 6 | 53 | - | - | 13 | 6 | - | - |
| Mesentery Fat | 8 | 93 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Meat | - | 1213 | - | 128 | - | 529 | - | 34 |
| Tripes | 6 | 195 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Skirts | 7 | 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Plucks | - | - | 23 | 107 | 43 | 300 | - | - |
| Hearts | 2 | 10 | - | - | 58 | 32 | - | - |
| Totals (b) | 872 | 14888 | 601 | 1895 | 1022 | 4736 | 30 | 199 |
| Total Weight (a) & (b) in pounds | - | 22287 | - | 3609 | - | 6790 | - | 854 |

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the incidence of tuberculosis and other diseases in animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during the year 1954:-

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

| | CATTLE | COWS | CALVES | SHEEP | PIGS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Killed | 1976 | 167 | 531 | 8464 | 6889 |
| Number inspected | 1976 | 167 | 531 | 8464 | 6889 |
| *All Diseases Except Tuberculosis* Whole Carcases Condemned | 4 | 5 | 23 | 35 | 15 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 566 | 62 | 11 | 538 | 814 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. | 28.8% | 40.1% | 6.4% | 6.8% | 12.0% |
| *Tuberculosis.* Whole Carcases Condemned | 6 | 2 | - | - | 6 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 128 | 11 | - | - | 108 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 6.8% | 7.7% | - | - | 1.7% |

**Slaughterhouses.**

Following the decontrol of meat and livestock in June, 1954, the Corporation took over the lease of the Banbury Centralised Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury, as from the 1st July, and these premises are now being operated as a Public Abattoir. There are no other licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, the Corporation having determined not to grant or renew any such licences in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, by the terms of a resolution approved in September 1954. The Corporation has provided the necessary staff of slaughtermen at the Swan Close Road premises and the abattoir, which is supervised by a manager working under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, has functioned most satisfactorly both from the public health angle and from the point of view of the butchers. Details of the work carried out from July 1st to the end of the year appear in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**(c) Other Foods.**

The following other articles of food were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption during the year:-

TINNED FOODS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tinned Meat | 90 Tins |
| Tinned Fish | 163 Tins |
| Tinned Milk | 74 Tins |
| Tinned Vegetables | 84 Tins |
| Tinned Sausages | 17 Tins |
| Tinned Fruit | 148 Tins |
| Tinned Soup | 2 Tins |
| Tinned Jam | 7 Tins |
| Tinned Tongue | 2 Tins |
| Tinned Rabbit | 1 Tin |
| Tinned Steak | 18 Tins |
| Tinned Ham | 28 Tins |
| Tinned Tomatoes | 59 Tins |
| Tinned Gravy | 10 Tins |
| Tinned Cream | 5 Tins |
| Tinned Fruit Juices | 3 Tins |
| Tinned Pudding | 10 Tins |
| Tinned Fish Paste | 1 Tin |
| Tinned Golden Syrup | 5 Tins |

SUNDRIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wet Fish | 19 lbs. |
| Sausages | 148½ lbs. |
| Cheese | 26½ lbs. |
| Meat | 10¾ lbs. |
| Bacon | 33½ lbs. |
| Ham | ¾ lbs. |
| Dripping | 34 lbs. |
| Flour | 17 lbs. |
| Butter | 6½ lbs. |
| Margarine | 16 lbs. |
| Sugar | 2 lbs. |
| Tongue | 6 lbs. |
| Custard Powder | 36 Packets |
| Cornflower | 36 Packets |
| Corned Beef | 5 lbs. |
| Tea | ¼ lb. |
| Sauce | 3 bottles |

**Food Poisoning Outbreaks.**

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in the Borough during 1954.

**Clean Food Campaigns.**

As will be seen from the annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector 2 026 visits to food premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year and, considerable educational work, of the utmost value, was carried out in the course of these routine inspections.

In addition, although no organised course of lectures dealing especially with Clean Food was given during the year, informal talks to various local organisations were given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and on these occasions opportunity was taken to emphasise the importance of Clean Food.

**Byelaws under Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 15.**

These Byelaws have been adopted by the Council and frequent visits are paid to food premises and market stalls in the Borough by the Sanitary Inspectors to ensure that the Byelaws are being complied with.

During the period of the Annual Fair in October, 1954, special attention was paid to the observance of the Clean Food Byelaws by the occupiers of stalls dealing in food stuffs and although conditions were, on the whole, more satisfactory than in previous years it was necessary to issue several verbal cautions in respect of minor offences under the Byelaws.

Further details of the work in this connection will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**FOOD PREMISES.**

The following statistics, required by the Ministry, are given in respect of food premises in the Borough:-

**(1) No. of Food Premises on record.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bakehouses | 15 |
| Butchers Shops | 21 |
| Cafes and Restaurants | 42 |
| Confectioners and Sweet Shops | 29 |
| Dairies | 6 |
| Fishmongers | 5 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 6 |
| Food Manufacturing Premises | 9 |
| Greengrocers Shops | 19 |
| Grocers and General Shops | 50 |
| Public Houses and Licensed Premises | 65 |

**(2) No. of Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

(a) For the manufacture or storage of ice cream 98

(b) For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food 17

**(3) No. of Dairies Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.** 6

**(4) No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises.**

Full details of this work are recorded in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**(5) Method of Disposal of condemned food.**

Generally be destruction at the Corporation's refuse destructor.

## *SECTION F*

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1954.

| DISEASE | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED | ADMITTED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL | TOTAL DEATHS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 34 | 16 | - |
| Measles | 4 | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 17 | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | - | - |
| Sonne Dysentery | 4 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 11 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 8 | - | - |
| TOTALS | 81 | 16 | - |

**AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES**

| Age over | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| and under | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 | |
| DISEASE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | 3 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Measles | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sonne Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 8 | 2 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 34 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 1 |

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**

11 cases were notified during the year, 9 at the Elms and 2 at Neithrop Hospital In two of the cases at the Elms there was no infection inthe genital tract while in 7 cases vaginal or cervical swabs were positive for Haemolytic Streptococci. The staff at the hospital were swabbed and a carrier found and suspended from duty. As a result, systematic swabbing of the staff is now carried out at monthly intervals.

**Scarlet Fever**

Thirty-four cases occurred during 1954; sixteen of these were removed to hospital and eighteen isolated at home. Twenty-five cases occurred in school children, eight in children under school age and one in an adult.

**Whooping Cough.**

Seventeen cases occurred during the year. No complications were reported. There were no deaths.

No. of children immunised at School Clinic ... 65.

**Diphtheria.**

No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The following are the figures of cases immunised at the School Clinic, Warwick Road:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 5 years ... ... ... | 58 |
| School Children ... ... | 133 |
| Re-inforcement Doses ... ... | 184 |

**Anterior Poliomyelitis.**

One suspected case occurred which proved to be negative after admission to Hospital.

One death occurred in an adult male, a severe case notified in November, 1953 who died in March 1954.

**Measles.**

4 cases occurred during 1954. There were no deaths and few complications were reported.

**TUBERCULOSIS**

| Age Groups | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 1 to 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 to 15 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 to 25 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 25 to 35 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 35 to 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 to 55 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 |
| 55 to 65 | 1 | | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 65 & over | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | | - |
| | 4 | 5 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 |

Death Rate per 1,000 from Tuberculosis:-

| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary |
|---|---|---|
| Banbury ... ... ... ... | 0.105 | 0.052 |
| England and Wales ... ... ... | 0.16 | 0.019 |

Death Rate per 1,000 from Cancer of the Lung:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Banbury ... ... ... ... | 0.523 |
| England and Wales ... ... ... | 0.369 |

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## BOROUGH OF BANBURY

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954
Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises | Number of | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. | 23 | 16 | 3 | - |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.. | 130 | 110 | 6 | - |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | 12 | 6 | 1 | - |
| TOTAL. | 165 | 132 | 10 | - |

2. Cases in which defects were fonnd.

| Particulars. | No. of cases in which defects were found. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | by H.M. Inspector | No. of Prosecutions. |
| Want of cleaniness | 5 | 5 | - | - | - |
| San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) unsuitable or defective. | 10 | 10 | - | 1 | - |
| Other offences | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL. | 16 | 16 | - | 1 | - |

3. Outworkers.

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110(1)(c) ... ... 15
(All outworkers engaged in making of wearing apparel)
No. of cases of default in supplying lists ... ... ... ... -
No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises ... ... ... -

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Banbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my ninth annual report which records the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1954 and, in doing so, I am able to report satisfactory progress in all aspects of our manifold duties.

The year 1954 was a particularly busy one but, on the whole, I am satisfied that the various branches of our work received satisfactory attention and that the standard of work, achieved in previous years, was not relaxed. As previously, housing work and duties in connection with food supplies formed the major portion of our duties but, in spite of heavy commitments in these two directions, we were able to maintain the customary routine supervision of the various registered premises in the Borough.

Two important matters call for special comment. The first of these was the taking over by the Corporation of the slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road which, from 1940 to June 1954, had been in use as a Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, By this means, the Corporation has ensured that centralised slaughtering of food animals in the Borough will continue - an arrangement which will, I feel, be to the benefit of the town generally, the local butchers and to the Department. The other matter of some importance was the decision of the Corporation to appoint as from January, 1955, a full-time Diseases of Animals Act Inspector on my staff. The very heavy duties which had fallen upon your Sanitary Inspectors in this connection during recent years increased considerably during 1954 and the effect of these extraneous duries was beginning to have an adverse effect on the ordinary work of the staff. I do feel, therefore, that the new arrangement is one which had become highly necessary and I am able to report that, already, the beneficial effect of the new appointment is being reflected in the general work of the Department.

Staff changes which occurred during the year had the usual effect of temporarily interrupting the programme of work. The Senior Additional Inspector (Mr. G. Walshaw) left us in July to take up the post of Deputy Chief Inspector to the Borough of Guildford and Mr. D. R. Cotgrove (District Inspector) was appointed to the Senior Additional Inspector's post with the Chertsey Urban District Council in September. These officers were replaced by Mr. C. R. Paling (Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector) and Mr. D. H. Hibbert (District Sanitary Inspector) from the Boroughs of Darwen and Cleethorpes respectively.

In concluding this brief introduction, I should be failing in my duty if I did not once again express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of those Committees of the Corporation with which I am most closely associated for the courtesy and the support which is invariable shown to me. Also, I would again mention the happy relationship which exists between the Medical Officer of Health and myself and I would thank him, together with the Town Clerk and other Chief Officers of the Corporation, for their ready help at all times

Finally, I would again express my thanks to my own staff - both technical and clerical - because it is, in the main, due to their work and co-operation that I am able to present this record of a most satisfactory year's work.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1955.

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1954.

**Public Health Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Houses inspected | 170 |
| Verminous premises | 32 |
| Infectious Disease enquiries | 78 |
| Drainage inspections | 121 |
| Re-visits and work in progress | 626 |
| Van dwellings | 334 |
| Smoke abatement | 15 |
| Streams and watercourses | 34 |
| Vacant land and refuse dumps | 58 |
| Canal boats | 15 |
| Water sampling | 8 |
| Public houses - conveniences | 80 |
| Refuse accommodation | 135 |

**Housing Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Houses inspected and recorded | 673 |
| Re-visits and work in progress | 578 |
| Housing applications | 3 |

**Factories Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Factories inspected | 110 |
| Workplaces inspected | 16 |
| Outworkers premises inspected | 10 |

**Shops Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Shops inspected (health and comfort provisions) | 158 |
| Shops inspected (closing hours and records) | 189 |
| Shops re-inspected | 30 |

**Food and Drugs Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bakehouses | 67 |
| General food shops | 542 |
| Fried fish shops | 21 |
| Food preparing premises | 44 |
| Slaughterhouse | 594 |
| Knackers yard | 8 |
| Public Houses | 98 |
| Public Markets | 177 |
| Food inspection visits | 131 |
| Restaurants and cafes | 114 |
| Ice-cream premises | 69 |
| Food vehicles | 24 |
| Dairies | 54 |
| Milk sampling visits | 50 |
| Ice-cream sampling visits | 33 |

**Miscellaneous.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rats and mice | 61 |
| Schools | 10 |
| Cinemas and public halls | 10 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Diseases of Animals Act ... ... ... | 2095 |
| Interviews with owners and builders ... ... | 627 |
| Keeping of animals ... ... ... ... | 31 |
| Miscellaneous visits ... ... ... | 1414 |
| Pet Animals Act visits ... ... ... | 41 |
| Rag Flock Act visits ... ... ... | 4 |
| Total visits and inspections made ... | 9792 |

**NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1954.**

| Type of Notice. | Out-standing 31-12-53 | Served 1954 | Complied with 1954 | Out-Standing 31-12-54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Health Act-Prelim | 60 | 175 | 190 | 45 |
| Public Health Act-Statutory | 34 | 60 | 56 | 38 |
| Housing Act-Prelim ... | 34 | 43 | 65 | 12 |
| Housing Act-Statutory | 39 | 21 | 42 | 18 |
| Factories Act-Informal | 6 | 10 | 10 | 6 |
| Shops Act-Informal ... | 11 | 27 | 31 | 7 |
| Food and Drugs Act-Informal | 32 | 52 | 68 | 16 |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act-Informal ... | - | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Milk & Dairies Regulations Informal ... ... | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Canal Boats Regulations-Informal ... ... | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| TOTALS. ... | 216 | 393 | 466 | 143 |

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED, 1954.**

| | Public Health and Housing Acts. | Food and Drugs Act. | Factories Act | Shops Act | Misc. Acts & Regs. | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inspections made | 2960 | 2026 | 136 | 377 | 4293 | 9792 |
| Notices served | 299 | 52 | 10 | 27 | 5 | 393 |
| Notices complied with | 353 | 68 | 10 | 31 | 4 | 466 |
| Defects remedied | 1443 | 145 | 12 | 48 | 4 | 1652 |
| Premises improved | 353 | 58 | 8 | 21 | 4 | 444 |

## NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1954

### (a) Dwelling Houses

| | |
|---|---|
| Roofs repaired or renewed ... ... ... | 78 |
| External walls re-pointed ... ... ... | 108 |
| Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ... ... | 30 |
| Eaves gutters repaired or renewed ... ... | 39 |
| Dampness abated generally ... ... ... | 19 |
| Wall plaster repaired ... ... ... | 81 |
| Ceiling plaster repaired ... ... ... | 72 |
| Floors repaired or renewed ... ... ... | 70 |
| Windows repaired or renewed ... ... ... | 161 |
| Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed ... | 33 |
| Coppers provided or repaired ... ... ... | 15 |
| Sinks repaired, renewed or provided ... ... | 21 |
| Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ... | 29 |
| Repairs to water supplies ... ... ... | 3 |
| Food stores provided or repaired ... ... | 14 |
| New sashcords to windows provided ... ... | 114 |
| Stairs repaired or renewed ... ... ... | 14 |
| Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed ... ... | 79 |
| Chimneys and stacks repaired ... ... ... | 47 |
| Yards and passages paved or repaired ... ... | 18 |
| Coalhouses provided or repaired ... ... ... | 16 |
| Interior water supplies provided ... ... | 11 |
| Town's water provided to houses (hitherto well supplies) | 2 |
| Additional light or ventilation provided ... ... | 16 |
| Rooms cleansed and re-decorated ... ... ... | 135 |
| Handrails provided in staircases ... ... | 12 |
| Houses closed or demolished ... ... ... | 7 |
| Drains cleared of obstructions ... ... ... | 14 |
| Drains repaired or renewed ... ... ... | 34 |
| Inspection chambers provided to drains ... ... | 2 |
| Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc., repaired ... ... | 5 |
| W.C. compartments repaired and cleansed ... ... | 52 |
| W.C. pedestals provided ... ... ... | 15 |
| New dustbins provided ... ... ... ... | 61 |
| Offensive accumulations removed ... ... ... | 2 |
| W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ... ... | 15 |
| Verminous rooms disinfested ... ... ... | 26 |
| Additional water closets provided ... ... | 1 |
| Flushing cisterns provided to W.Cs. hitherto without | 2 |

### (b) Shops Acts

| | |
|---|---|
| Water closets cleansed and repaired ... ... | 7 |
| Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited ... ... | 11 |
| Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited ... | 12 |
| Abstract of Act provided ... ... ... | 6 |
| Additional ventilation provided ... ... ... | 1 |
| Washing facilities provided ... ... ... | 1 |
| Young persons records kept ... ... ... | 4 |
| Notices re seats exhibited ... ... ... | 6 |

**(c) Factories.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc ... ... | 10 |
| Structural repairs completed ... ... ... | 1 |
| Urinals cleansed or repaired ... ... ... | 1 |

**(d) Bakehouses.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Water closets repaired and cleansed ... ... | 1 |
| Bakehouses cleansed and redecorated ... ... | 3 |
| Structural repairs completed ... ... ... | 3 |
| Flour stores cleansed and redecorated ... ... | 3 |
| Accumulations of refuse removed ... ... | 2 |
| Dustbin provided ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Clean towels provided ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Confectionery trays cleansed ... ... ... | 2 |
| Floors, etc., cleansed ... ... ... | 1 |
| Apparatus cleansed ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| New sink provided ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Soap and clean towels provided ... ... ... | 1 |

**(e) Dairies.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dairies cleansed and re-decorated ... ... | 4 |

**(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Constant hot water supplies provided ... ... | 8 |
| Shops cleansed and redecorated ... ... ... | 9 |
| Food storage rooms re-decorated ... ... | 15 |
| W.C's. cleansed and repaired ... ... ... | 3 |
| Structural repairs completed ... ... ... | 7 |
| Dustbins provided or properly sited ... ... | 9 |
| Food Storage facilities improved ... ... | 11 |
| Floors cleansed ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Food rooms entirely reconstructed ... ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous improvements ... ... ... | 8 |
| Sink provided ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Apparatus cleansed ... ... ... ... | 6 |

**(g) Cafes and Public Houses.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Constant hot water supplies provided ... ... | 6 |
| Rooms and cellars cleansed and redecorated ... | 15 |
| Water closets cleansed and repaired ... ... | 2 |
| Urinals provided or repaired ... ... ... | 2 |
| Structural repairs completed ... ... ... | 5 |
| Sinks provided ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Drainage repairs ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Cold water supply laid on to sinks ... ... | 2 |
| Apparatus cleansed ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Food storage improved ... ... ... ... | 4 |

## COMPLAINTS

During the year, 106 written or verbal complaints were received at the office and these were in respect of the following matters:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Defective water closets ... ... ... | 9 |
| Defective house roofs ... ... ... | 5 |
| Choked and defective drains ... ... | 24 |
| Offensive smells ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Burst water pipes... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Inadequate water supply ... ... ... | 1 |
| Defective dustbins ... ... ... | 5 |
| Dumping of refuse... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Flooding of cellars ... ... ... | 3 |
| Defective gutters and rainwater pipes ... | 2 |
| Defective ranges and fireplaces ... ... | 2 |
| Verminous or dirty premises ... ... | 3 |
| Dampness ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Smoke and chimney nuisances ... ... | 5 |
| Nuisances from animals ... ... ... | 1 |
| Overcrowding ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Choked ditch ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Dangerous structures ... ... ... | 1 |
| Van dwellings ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| General defects ... ... ... ... | 14 |
| | 106 |

## DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS

During the period under review, 14 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, at a further 34 premises, drains were re-constructed or repaired under our supervision - this work including the provision of two new inspection chambers. In addition, several choked sewers were found and, in each case, these received prompt attention after being referred to the Borough Surveyor.

Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected comprised the provision of 1 additional water closet; the repair of 75 water closet compartments; the provision of 15 new pedestal pans and the repair or renewal of 15 flushing cisterns.

In addition to these improvements, 5 sinks or washing basins were provided at food premises in the area following requests by your Inspectors.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The incidence of infectious disease was again low during 1954 and, as a consequence, the Sanitary Inspectors made only 78 visits of enquiry in respect of notified cases. A report on each of these cases was made to the Medical Officer of Health. Following the occurrence of infectious disease, 27 rooms were disinfected by the Department.

## REFUSE ACCOMMODATION

As a result of complaints and routine inspections 71 new dustbins were supplied at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the Department under the provisions of Section 75 of the

Public Health Act, 1936. In two cases, the owners of the properties concerned failed to make the necessary provision and the Corporation provided the dustbins in default - the cost of this work being recoverable from the owners.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

This section of our duties did not receive quite the same amount of attention as in recent years on account of the presure of other work and only 15 formal observations of factory chimneys were recorded. No excessive emissions of smoke were, however, discovered during these observations and, on the whole, the position in this regard was much more satisfactory during 1954 than in any recent year.

The District Sanitary Inspectors, however, kept a watchful eye on the chimneys in their respective areas and, on a few occasions, apart from the periods of formal observation mentioned above, interviewed stokers and others when short bursts of black smoke were noticed from factory chimneys.

A complaint of smoke, due to the burning of oil drums, old tyres etc. on land in the area was dealt with satisfactorily during the year and this practice has now ceased.

## VAN DWELLINGS

334 visits of inspection were made to van dwellings in the area, 82 visits being paid to such structures during the period of the annual Michaelmas Fair.

The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 81 adult males, 99 adult females and 52 children. As in previous annual reports, I am able to report that no serious cases of overcrowding were found in the course of these inspections and that the caravans were clean and well maintained. No cases of infectious disease were met with during the survey of the fair vehicles and, after their departure, inspections made of the sites occupied by them showed that they had been left in a clean and tidy condition.

As no properly constructed caravan site is yet available in the Borough, the Public Health Committee continued their policy of taking no action with respect to van dwellings placed on a site at The Marshes, Southam Road, and, by the end of the year, between 25 and 30 vehicles were regularly on this site. One temporary licence was granted to the occupier of a van dwelling on a privately owned site during the year and four caravans were moved from unlicensed sites following intervention by the Department.

During the year the site at the Marshes, Southam Road, changed hands and plans are being prepared by the new owner for the carrying out of extensive improvements there and, it is hoped that, during the present year, this site will be properly equipped so that the Corporation may licence it.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

15 rooms infested by vermin were disinfested by the Department and 32 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case the infested premises were dealt with satisfactorily and the decrease in the number of cases of infestation by vermin generally, which has been noticed in recent years, was again evident during 1954.

## WATER SUPPLY

Interior water supplies from the town's mains were provided at two houses during the year, both these houses having hitherto been supplied from an unsatisfactory well. In addition, burst pipes or defective fittings were repaired at 3 premises following the service of notices by the Department.

Very few premises in the Borough are now not connected with the Corporation's water mains and this number is gradually being reduced, a fact shown very clearly when it is realised that 31 premises, previously served by wells or springs, have been connected to the town's mains since 1946.

## HOUSING

As in previous years, housing work still continues to be one of the major duties of your Sanitary Inspectors and the year under review again saw a considerable amount of time being devoted to this work.

In this connection, 170 inspections were recorded under the Public Health Act, 1936 and 673 houses were inspected and recorded under the provisions of the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations. The large increase in the number of houses inspected under the latter Regulations was due to the carrying out of a special survey in connection with the Corporation's proposals for a five year programme of slum clearance work.

As a result of the inspections made it was found necessary to serve 218 informal notices and 81 statutory notices and, during the year, 255 informal notices and 98 statutory notices were complied with. The number of dwelling houses repaired was, therefore, 353 and in 6 instances it was necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default of the owners. In two of these cases the Corporation provided new dustbins in default and, at four houses, repairs were executed by the Corporation under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health and myself in connection with the proposed slum clearance programme was under consideration by the appropriate Committee of the Council at the time this report was being prepared and, if this report is adopted, a large amount of Clearance Area work will be necessary during the next five years. It does appear, however, that, unless the Corporation are allowed to build a much larger number of houses during the next five years than they have recently, it will not be possible to complete the suggested programme in the time given.

The record of work carried out by the Department in connection with housing during recent years is satisfactory having regard to the general conditions existing in the country and details of this work are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

No applications for certificates of disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received during the period covered by this report.

## FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES

The usual routine inspections of factories and bakehouses was carried out during the year and 203 visits of inspection were made to such premises. 10 premises were improved on request and 12 defects or contraventions were remedied - details of this work being recorded on page 23 of this report.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No applications for registration under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act were received during 1954.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for all duties under the somewhat complicated provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 and, in connection with this work, 158 shops were inspected with respect to the "Health and Comfort" provisions of the Act and 219 inspections were recorded in relation to closing hours, the employment of young persons, and the keeping of records. In addition to the recorded inspections, a good deal of work has been carried out in connection with shops legislation in the way of advising shop keepers of their manifold and somewhat difficult duties under the Act.

As a result of the inspections made, it was found necessary to serve 27 informal notices, most of which were in respect of the keeping of records and the exhibition of the necessary notices. The improvements effected as a result of the service of these notices include the repair or cleansing of water closets at 7 shops; the provision of additional ventilation at one premises; the exhibition of 39 notices; and the proper keeping of records with respect to young persons employed in one shop.

## CANAL BOATS.

15 Canal boats were inspected during the year and no contraventions were found on any of the boats visited. No infectious disease was met with on any of the boats and, once again, I am able to report on the satisfactory state of cleanliness in which these boats are now usually maintained.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The usual attention was given to the work of rats and mice destruction in the Borough during 1954 and the Corporation continued

their policy of giving a free service with respect to private dwellings and of making a charge for rodent destruction work at business premises.

The following figures, giving details of the year's work and that carried out in the four previous years, are given to illustrate the continued attention which has been given to these duties.

| **(a) Surface Infestations.** | | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of complaints received | ... | 117 | 97 | 81 | 124 | 132 |
| No. of premises inspected | ... | 2214 | 2171 | 2016 | 1940 | 1660 |
| No. of revisits made... | ... | 1116 | 868 | 539 | 710 | 734 |
| No. of premises cleared | ... | 435 | 435 | 426 | 432 | 406 |
| Amount of bait laid (lbs.) | ... | 667 | 703 | 656 | 822 | 746 |
| Actual rat bodies found | ... | 753 | 707 | 687 | 701 | 666 |

**(b) Sewer Infestations.**

During June, 1954 and March, 1955, the Corporation's sewers were again dealt with and, on these occasions, on the instructions of the Ministry, full maintenance treatments were not carried out. The first treatment carried out in June consisted of a test baiting of those parts of the sewers which had previously showed signs of infestation and, out of 35 sewer manholes baited, 7 showed signs of rats. Immediately after this test baiting, a further 35 manholes were baited in various parts of the Borough and 19 "takes" were recorded In March, the portions of the sewers showing infestation during the June treatment were again dealt with together with other portions of the sewers which had shown infestation on previous occasions and, out of 30 manholes baited, only 13 showed the presence of rats.

The general results of these treatments shows that the small amount of infestation in the sewers which has been evident since 1949 still continues and it can be said that, on the whole, the position is very satisfactory having regard to the age and condition of some of the Corporation's sewers.

It is felt that the constant attention which has been given to both surface and sewer infestations by the Corporation during recent years is responsible for the general position, in this regard being satisfactory.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

**(a) Slaughterhouse.**

As a result of the termination of the control of meat and livestock at the end of June, 1954, a change occurred in the slaughtering arrangements in the Borough whereby the Corporation took over the lease of the former Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury. Since the 1st July, 1954, therefore, these premises have been operated by the Corporation as a Public Abattoir in which all food animals for the Borough - and the surrounding areas - are slaughtered by the Corporation's slaughtermen. No other slaughterhouses have been licensed by the Corporation since the relaxation of control and, during the year, the appropriate

resolution, under the provisions of Sec. 4 (2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, was passed by the Council thus giving effect to the decision not to grant licences for further slaughterhouses in the area.

The change-over was effected most smoothly and the new abattoir has been most efficiently supervised by the manager - Mr. T. W. Pargeter - who works under the control of your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

From the 1st July to the 31st December, 1954, a total of 4496 animals were slaughtered at the abattoir. These comprised 532 cattle; 2053 sheep; 1845 pigs and 66 calves - the fees received during the period for slaughtering charges, lairage fees, refrigeration charges etc. amounting to £1773. 4s. 2d.

In making this brief reference to the change-over I would specially commend the manager and the slaughtermen for the way in which they have carried out their duties and for the high quality of the dressed carcases which they have produced - a high quality which has given much satisfaction to the local butchers.

**(b) Meat Inspection.**

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year was 18027 - 13,531 being dealt with under the Ministry of Food's regime from January to June and 4496 during the second half of the year. 96 whole carcases and organs were rejected as being totally unfit for human food and 2525 other carcases had some part or organ rejected for the same reason. The total weight of unsound meat thus found to be unfit was approximately 15 tons - a figure much lower than that for either 1953 or 1952 when 29 tons and 28½ tons respectively were condemned.

It is interesting to note that between 1946 and 1953 (when control was in operation during the post-war years) the number of animals slaughtered in Banbury varied from 21,265 in 1953 to 8,065 in 1948.

In reviewing the whole period of control - from 1940 to 1954 - I would again record my appreciation of the good relations which invariable existed between your officers and those of the Ministry. These years were very busy ones for all concerned and it is pleasing for me to be able to comment on the efficient way in which slaughtering was carried out during fourteen most difficult years. Banbury was indeed fortunate in having available a modern slaughterhouse during this period, and it is to the benefit of the town that these premises have now become available for use as a public abattoir.

**(c) Other Foods.**

In addition to the unsound meat mentioned above, a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foodstuffs were dealt with - 131 visits of inspection being recorded for this purpose. Full details of all unsound meat and food are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health attached hereto.

**(d) Slaughtermen's Licences.**

Following the comming into operation of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, twelve slaughtermen were licensed by the Corporation during the year under the provisions of that Act.

## MILK CONTROL

The usual attention was given to the supervision of milk distribution in the Borough and, as in previous years, the regular routine inspection of dairies was carried out by your Officers together with the taking of milk samples for examination for keeping quality, cleanliness, and efficient pasteurisation.

The figures given in the table below show the results of the samples taken during the year together with the results of the four previous years:-

| | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samples taken ... ... | 75 | 82 | 88 | 56 | 66 |
| Samples satisfactory ... | 72 | 76 | 84 | 55 | 66 |
| Samples not satisfactory ... | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | - |

In addition to these samples, I was informed by the County Council's Officer that he had taken 54 samples in Banbury during the year with similar satisfactory results.

Two dealers' licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 were issued during the year and five dealers' licenses were granted under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The dairies were maintained in a satisfactory condition by their owners during the year and on only 4 occasions was it necessary for informal action to be taken in respect of contraventions of the Regulations.

## FOOD PREMISES.

A considerable amount of attention was again paid to the food premises in the Borough and, as will be seen from the figures given below, further progress was again made in raising the standard of food premises and of food hygiene in the area. The efforts of the Corporation in this direction, which have now continued for some years, are becoming increasingly apparent in the noticeably higher standard of premises and methods of handling food in the area and I would again pay tribute to the food traders for their co-operation in this regard.

The premises at which improvements were effected during 1954 comprised:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grocers Shops ... ... | 13 | Fishmongers & Greengrocers | 7 |
| Butchers Shops ... ... | 8 | Fried Fish Shops ... ... | 5 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... | 7 | General Food Shops ... ... | 5 |
| Public Houses ... ... | 8 | | |
| Cafes and Restaurants ... | 5 | | |

The various improvements carried out at the 58 premises concerned are summarised in the following list:-

| | Premises |
|---|---|
| Rooms cleansed and re-decorated at ... ... | 30 |
| Structural repairs and improvements at ... | 14 |
| Refuse storage facilities improved at ... | 10 |
| Food storage facilities improved at... ... | 12 |
| Constant hot water supplies provided at ... | 13 |
| New washing basins provided at... ... ... | 5 |
| Floors cleansed at... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Equipment cleansed... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Soap and clean towels provided at ... ... | 2 |
| New food preparing room provided at... ... | 2 |
| Sanitary conveniences improved at ... ... | 4 |
| Unsatisfactory food rooms closed at... ... | 2 |

During the year under review a total of 2,026 visits of inspection were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Byelaws and, in the same period, 52 informal notices were served requesting improvements and 68 notices were complied with during the year. This resulted in the remedying of 145 defects or contraventions and the consequent improvement of 58 food premises.

## PUBLIC HOUSES.

During the year the survey of public houses in respect of the condition and sufficiency of sanitary conveniences and the facilities for the proper cleansing of glasses after use has been continued and further progress was achieved in the carrying out of these desirable improvements. Up to the end of the year sinks had been provided in, or in close proximity to, the bars at 24 premises; constant supplies of hot and cold water had been laid on to bar sinks at 32 premises; beer cellars had been cleansed and redecorated at 22 premises and at 35 premises the sanitary conveniences had been brought up to a more satisfactory standard. In all, therefore, 49 premises were improved in some of the respects mentioned and, in addition, work is at present in progress or on order at several other licensed premises in the area.

## ICE CREAM.

In view of the tendency for ice cream to be supplied by a comparatively small number of large manufacturers, the number of ice cream samples taken for examination was again reduced as compared with recent years. 37 samples were taken from retailers and producers in the area and, of these, 30 samples were satisfactory and 7 samples failed to reach the accepted standard.

31 of the samples taken were produced outside the Borough and 6 were manufactured locally.

The gradings of the samples taken were as follows:-

| | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Locally produced ice cream | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 6 |
| Ice cream made outside Banbury | 19 | 6 | 6 | - | 31 |
| | 23 | 7 | 7 | - | 37 |

The year's results show that 81% of the samples were satisfactory and although these results are not so good as those obtained in the previous year, they can be considered as fairly satisfactory.

As is happening in most areas, there has been a great increase in the number of ice cream retailers in the area since the war and, last year, 7 further premises were registered for the sale of this commodity.

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## REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

**To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Banbury.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my annual report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders in the Borough for the year 1954.

In spite of the fact that no outbreaks of scheduled diseases occurred in the Borough during the year, the duties carried out by your officers were again most onerous and, as mentioned in previous annual reports, this part of our work continued to occupy a good deal of time. The continual growth of the local cattle market, the regular holding of fortnightly Irish Cattle Sales and the increase in the number of special sales held are the main reasons for the increased work in this connection and, when it is realised that the Banbury Cattle Market is now probably the largest in the country, it will be appreciated that it is necessary for more attention to be given to these duties than is required in most other similar areas.

The increased time which had to be devoted to this work during the year was a matter of some concern because it was evident that an adverse effect was being reflected in the general public health work of your Sanitary Inspectors. A report was therefore presented to the Committees concerned in this matter and, after due consideration, it was decided to appoint a full-time Diseases of Animals Acts Inspector on my staff. This appointment did not become effective until January, 1955, but it has already proved to be an arrangement of much advantage to the Department.

I give below some comments on the various aspects on the work carried out during the year:-

**(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab.**

No outbreaks of either of these diseases were reported during 1954.

**(2) Swine Fever.**

Although Swine Fever was prevalent throughout the country during the year, no cases were reported in the Borough. As in previous years, I was able to give assistance to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry in the tracing of pigs which had passed through the local cattle market and, by this means, constant liaison was maintained between the Department and the Divisional Officers of the Ministry.

**(3) Foot-and-Mouth Disease.**

No cases of this disease occurred either in Banbury or the immediate neighbourhood.

**(4) Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1954.**

The number of licences issued authorising the movement of swine from the cattle market to private premises was 2,974, involving the movement of 22,950 animals. These figures are considerably higher than those for 1953 and illustrate the constant growth of the local market.

17 contraventions of the Order were reported to the appropriate Committee of the Corporation and, as all the cases were first offences, the persons responsible were cautioned by the Town Clerk. In addition to these cases, 16 cautions were administered by the Inspectors in respect of minor contraventions of the Order.

The increased number of offences detected under these Regulations appeared to be due to misconceptions in the minds of the purchasers of pigs in respect of the provisions of the Order, particularly having regard to the fact that certain pigs are now permitted to be moved direct to a slaughterhouse without a licence. Constant efforts were made to point out, and put into operation, the requirements of the Order and during the present year less trouble has been experienced in this direction.

**(5) Importation of Animals.**

604 licences were received during the year authorising the movement of 31,232 Irish cattle from the landing place to the local cattle market and all these cattle were re-licensed to private premises - this involving the issue of 1,639 licences.

The market was licensed during the year for the holding of fortnightly sales of Irish cattle on Fridays and on a few occasions special licences were issued authorising the sale of Irish sheep. These markets have become a special feature of the work of your officers at the cattle market and have imposed a pretty heavy burden on the staff as will be seen from the figures quoted above.

3 cautions were administered by the Town Clerk in respect of offences under the Animals (Landing from Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man) Order of 1933 and 16 cautions were issued by your Inspectors in respect of other minor contraventions of the Order.

**(6) Sheep Dipping.**

The number of sheep dipped in the Borough during 1954 was 1,060 and in each case the single type dip was used. New Regulations under the Sheep Scab Orders 1938 and 1948, were made by the Corporation during the year and, when these Regulations are in operation, they will accord with similar Regulations which are in operation in the rest of the County.

**(7) Transit of Animals - Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles.**

During the year a total of 7,581 vehicles used for the conveyance of animals, were cleansed and disinfected at the Corporation's

cleansing station at the cattle market. This figure gives a weekly average of 145 vehicles for the year - a similar figure to that of the previous year. The income received by the Corporation in respect of this work was £568. 11s. 6d., an increase of £158. 1s. 0d. over the receipts for 1953.

As in previous years, strict supervision over the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles was again maintained and, on the whole, it can be said that this work is being carried out most satisfactorily.

The number of washing bays at the cleansing centre was increased during the period under review to 13 and this new provision has had the effect of decreasing the waiting period for such vehicles on busy market days.

A further improvement carried out at the cleansing station was the removal of the manure receptacle to a more convenient site. This has had the effect of reducing congestion on the washing site during busy periods and this improvement, together with better arrangements for clearing and disposing of the manure, has been to the advantage of all concerned.

**(8) The Live Poultry (Restriction) Order.**

As in previous years the sale of poultry at the market was again under restriction for the whole of the period under review and the auctioneers were licensed to enable them to hold weekly sales of poultry, intended for immediate slaughter, within the precincts of the market. In addition they were licensed to hold sales of store poultry on premises adjoining, but not within, the boundaries of the market premises. The various poultry sales were kept under observation as far as was practicable during the year and no serious contraventions of the Order were discovered.

**(9) The Markets, Sales and Lairs (Amendment) Order, 1926**

Special attention was given to the market during the year in respect of the provisions of the above-mentioned Order and a very large number of routine inspections were carried out in this connection. In addition, the officers of the Ministry made numerous inspections of the market, particularly in the early morning, and, as a result of these efforts, the cleansing of the market premises was carried out more satisfactorily than in previous years.

It was necessary on several occasions to make verbal requests to the owners of the market to comply with the provisions of the Order but, in the latter part of the year, conditions generally in this regard were much improved and it is only fair to say that the owners of the market are using their best endeavours to comply with the Regulations.

**(10) Fowl Pest.**

No cases of this disease were reported in the area during 1954.

**(11) General.**

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Baths, Parks and Markets Committee of the Corporation for the support and courtesy which is always so freely accorded to me and I must pay tribute to the members of my staff for their willing and efficient work during the year. Finally, I should like to mention the help and advice which is always available to me from Colonel J. C. Bennison, F R. C. V. S., D. V. S. M., the Ministry's Divisional Inspector and the co-operation I have received from the members of his staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD, D. P. A. (Lond.), F. R. San. I.,

Inspector under the Diseases
of Animals Acts and Orders.